

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 (ISO) W

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P R 111200Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3385

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

DIA WASHDC

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 3915

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, PO

SUBJ: INTERSINDICAL DEMONSTRATION SUPPORTS ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT

SUMMARY: THE PORTUGUESE LABOR CONFEDERATION, THE COMMUNIST PARTY, AND CLOSELY ALIGNED GROUPS, AGAIN SHOWED THEIR ABILITY TO BRING CROWDS INTO THE STREETS TO DEMONSTRATE SUPPORT FOR THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (AFM). DEMONSTRATION INCLUDED PARTI-
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CIPATION OF UNIFORMED MILITARY. PRESIDENT, PRIME MINISTER, AND

MINISTER OF LABOR ADDRESSED CROWD WITH VARYING DEGREES OF MILITANCY. END SUMMARY:

1. DEMONSTRATION OF "POPULAR FORCES" EVENING OF JULY 10 IN SUPPORT OF ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT ATTRACTED ESTIMATED 50,000 PERSONS WHO MARCHED FROM A CENTRAL PLAZA TO PRESIDENTIAL OFFICES AT BELEM PALACE. DEMONSTRATION CALLED BY LABOR CONFEDERATION, INTERSINDICAL, AND SUPPORTED BY COMMUNIST PARTY, THE COMMUNIST-LINING FSP, MDP/CDE, AND COMMUNIST YOUTH GROUPS UEC AND UJC. PARTICIPATION OF SEVERAL HUNDRED UNIFORMED SAILORS AND SOLDIERS NOTEWORTHY AND GIVEN PROMINENT COVERAGE BY NEWS MEDIA. SLOGANS CHANGED BY CROWD CALLED FOR WORKER CONTROL, AGRARIAN REFORM AND UNITY OF PEOPLE WITH AFM. SOME HAD CLEAR ANTI-SOCIALIST SLANT SUCH AS "PEOPLE SAY NO TO PARALIZATION" AND "PEOPLE DO NOT WANT FASCISTS IN POWER."

2. DEMONSTRATORS ADDRESSED BY PRIME MINISTER VASCO GONCALVES, PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES, AND MINISTER OF LABOR COSTA MARTINS. PRIME MINISTER SPOKE FIRST, AND CLAIMED THAT UNITY BETWEEN AFM AND PEOPLE NOW MORE CLEAR THAN EVER BEFORE. HE REAFFIRMED THE COMMITMENT OF THE AFM TO TRANSFORM PORTUGAL AND TO GIVE THE WORKERS CONTROL OVER THEIR CONDITIONS OF EXISTENCE.

3. PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES TOLD CROWD THEIR PRESENCE SHOWED THEIR SUPPORT FOR "DISCIPLINE, AUTHORITY, ORDER, AND WORK, AND AGAINST OPPORTUNISM AND PSEUDO-REVOLUTIONARY ADVENTURISM." HE ASSERTED THAT REVOLUTION WAS YOUNG BEING AND MUST BE PROTECTED FROM ITS ENEMIES AND UNFAVORABLE CONDITIONS. IN USUAL ENIGMATIC MANNER AND WITH APPARENT REFERENCE TO HEIGHTENED POLITICAL IMPACT OF DEMONSTRATION DUE TO CURRENT POLITICAL CRISIS, HE ALLUDED TO FACT THAT IT HAD BEEN PLANNED SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE CRISIS.

4. MINISTER OF LABOR'S SPEECH REMARKABLY DEFENSIVE IN TONE. HE CLAIMED THAT RECENT ATTACKS ON HIM (I.E. EXPRESSO ARTICLE FORECASTING HIS REPLACEMENT) WERE IN REALITY VEILED ATTACKS ON WORKERS. HE ALSO CITED RECENT INCIDENT IN SETUBAL WHERE LOCAL LABOR INSPECTOR BRIEFLY DEFIED MINISTRY WITH SUPPORT OF SOME CONFIDENTIAL

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UNIONS. HOWEVER, THESE UNIONS, LIKE WORKERS ELSEWHERE, SOON REALIZED THEY HAD BEEN DECEIVED AND WERE NOW COOPERATING WITH MINISTRY OF LABOR TO DEFEND WORKERS INTERESTS.
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TAGS: PINT, ELAB, PO
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